

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives
Land Assistance Fund
www.federation.coop



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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket 11 -65

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

The Federation of Southern Cooperatives has a long history of providing self-help economic opportunities and hope for many low -income communities across the South. We are, in fact, the only organization in the Southeast United States that has as its primary objectives the retention of black-owned land and the use of cooperatives for land-based economic development. Cooperatives are businesses that are locally controlled and build wealth through the participation of people. We help underprivileged communities advance and our success hinges upon open, accessible and reliable communication.

These cooperatives are located, for the most part, in very rural areas -- areas that have often been bypassed for infrastructure development. These are areas where it may not make economic sense to expand wired broadband network access to every citizen. Yet, these areas need some form of broadband access. The promise of high speed *wireless* broadband is something that these areas can utilize to meet their very real needs.

In that spirit, I write today to support the AT&T merger with T-Mobile. The merger will bring wireless LTE broadband to more than 97% of Americans, and that means our constituents will have another tool in their fight for more economic opportunities in rural America.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cooperatively yours,

Ralph Paige
Executive Director

